

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

1. The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting March 4, 2004 at Aviators' Landing. This was the 187th scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.
2. Members present, absent, advisors, and guests present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, Except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL William E. Crouch , Inter. Co-Ch	CSM Charles E Frye, Co-Ch
COL Charles A. Block (USMC)	CSM Andrews Rivers
COL James E. Hyers	SGM Lloyd M. Rogers, Association Secretary
COL Herman S. Heath	SMSGT Jean Woodruff (UASF)
COL Bob Bunting	SFC Joe Barnes
LTC James Mellish	MS. Erika Johnson (Widow)

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL Richard M. Johnson	CSM William Jolley
SGM Terry Wilkens	SFC Ralph Reed

GUESTS

CDR James E. Cobb USNR (Ret)
1SG Jackie D. Ray USA (Ret)
SSG Fred Spiker USA (Ret)
Ms. Catherine Miller, Army Family Action Plan

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Jean Simmons, USAAMC
LTC Marc McDougald, DPS
Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary Officer
Mr. Perry Hensley, AG
Mr. Will Newman, RSO
Ms. Barbara Hardbarger, Tri-Care
Mr. Stefan Marks, PX
Mr. Tim Laster, DCFA

3. The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am by CSM Frye who welcomed the guests: CDR Cobb, 1SG Ray, and SSG Spiker.

4. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

5. Old Business -- None

6. Committee Reports.

a. Legislative Affairs – Colonel Hyer reported the following: Congress is back in session and both Budget Committees are working on the FY 05 budget. He suggested that all retirees contact their legislators to have them correct problems with the SBP. Effective immediately, social security numbers will no longer be printed on government checks. The VA is opening six new national cemeteries: Bakersfield, CA, Birmingham, AL, Jacksonville, FL, Saratoga County, FL, Southeastern Pennsylvania, and Columbia-Greenville, SC.

b. Quality Of Life – Colonel Block reported that the Club System is operating in the black, and suggested that if profits continue, the Club may reinstate steak nights or some other specialty meal programs.

c. Volunteer Program/Bowling Alley - SFC Barnes announced the Volunteer of the Year would be recognized on 21 April and all invitees were asked to RSVP by 9 April. The Volunteer of the Month for May is Colonel Stanley Heath, Equestrian Center and for June is Bernard Lockrem Cub Scouts.

d. Health/Dental Care – CSM Rivers reported the following: Hospital services will be reduced in the near future. The mobile MRI Van is providing service to the hospital several times a month. For those with computers, the Tri Care On-Line address is <http://www.tricareonline.com> and can be used to check on accounts, and the hospital email address is <http://www.rucker.amedd.army.mil> and can be used for information, appointments, and general uses. The Anthrax immunization program has started again.

e. Outdoor Sports – CSM Frye reported the following: Post hunting and fishing regulations require a state license for 16 and older up to age 65. Those over 65 need permits but there is no charge. Boat launch charge is \$4.00 including vehicle; general admission is \$2.00 per vehicle for six people and under and \$4.00 for more than six. Creel limits will be posted at launch and fishing areas. Bass must be 18 inches or more to be kept and, if under 18 inches, thrown back in the water regardless of condition. The minimum legal crappie length is 9 inches. There is a thirty fish limit for shell crackers, catfish, and blue gill. Buckhorn Lake will open for fishing on 1 May with a kids' tournament on that day. Lake Tholocco will open for fishing on 3 May with a tournament scheduled for 8 May. The campground on Engineer Beach is closed for renovation. A new well is being drilled, hook ups are being changed, pull through sites are being made, and there will be 30 sites available after completion.

f. Equestrian Center – Colonel Heath reported preparations for the Horse Trials this weekend are on track. There are entries from Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

- g. RAD – No changes from last meeting.

7. Advisors Comments

- a. Colonel Simmons reported that new equipment in the Pharmacy is causing delays, will virtually eliminate the chance of mistakes being made in medications. The Environment and Health Office has moved into the hospital; the same phone numbers from their previous location are still good.

- b. LTC Mc Dougald reported some of the barriers would be removed from the PX parking lot, and it will be altered and remarked for easier parking.

- c. Mr. Marks stated the Armed Forces Bank is now open in the Mall and its check cashing policy is the same as the one used by the PX. Checks may still be cashed at the PX registers but for no more than \$20.00 over the cost of the items purchased. Charlie's Grill Subs will be open around the 20th of March. Ice Cream vending machines are being placed in the Mall with fresh ice cream daily. A pet show is being planned, and a mobile pet grooming trailer will start service at the PX in the near future.

- d. Mr. O'Meara reported the DARE Program will be fingerprinting children at the Commissary on 10 April. There will be a Case Lot Sale on 14 – 15 May.

- e. Ms. Hardbarger reported the mobile MRI unit will be at the hospital on Thursday, Friday, and a half day on Saturday every week. Tri Care Prime patients may be scheduled for those times.

- f. Mr. Laster gave everyone a schedule of MWR events. MWR has purchased two new bass boats for use on Lake Tholocco. There is a new Golf Course manager, Gary Puckett. Annual golf fees are due in April. Weekday fees have been increased by \$1.00. All of the greens will be replaced with Bermuda grass, nine holes at a time. The Aviator's Landing will have an Easter brunch on April 11th with three seating times: Sunrise Breakfast at 7:30, Brunch at 10:00 and 12:00. Reservations will be taken until seating is filled. The pool will be repaired and reopened on Labor Day.

8. New Business – Advisors were asked to leave and Council business continued.

- a. Ms. Miller explained the workings of the Army Family Action Plan and asked for volunteers for the symposium to be held on 6 - 7 April. Facilitators, recording secretaries, and retirees were needed.

- b. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to recommend to the Garrison Commander the following retirees to be members of the Council; CDR Cobb, 1SG Ray, and SSG Spiker.

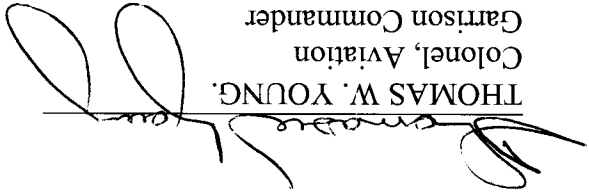
9. Co-Chairman's Comments –None.

10. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1 pm. The next scheduled meeting to be held at the Aviators Landing Community Center on April 1, 2004 at 1130 AM.

Approved via email
WILLIAM E. CROUCH
Colonel, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via email
CHARLES E. FRYE
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via email
LLOYD M. ROGERS
SGM, Retired
Association Secretary


THOMAS W. YOUNG.
Colonel, Aviation
Garrison Commander